

## **Mick Berry to Become Catawba County's Next Manager**

*Berry will become County Manager the first week of July.*

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners has selected Mick Berry as the County's next Manager. Berry, who began his career as a Budget Analyst in Catawba County, served as County Manager of Granville County from 1995-1997 before returning to Catawba County and serving in various positions, including Assistant County Manager, until 2004. In 2004 Mr. Berry became City Manager of Hickory.



During his tenure with the city, and in partnership with the county, Mr. Berry worked on planning and securing the City's first business park. He spearheaded the merger of the Hickory Metro Convention Center and the Convention and Visitor's Bureau resulting in a clearer mission and reduced operating costs, and implemented several major capital projects within the City. In Hickory he is responsible for managing a wide range of services with 640 full-time staff that are supported by an annual budget of \$102 million.

He will follow Tom Lundy who is retiring after a distinguished career with the County which spanned over 40 years of service to Catawba's citizens.

A veteran of over 25 years in local government management, Berry becomes Catawba's second County Manager since 1979.

Board Chairman Randy Isenhower noted that the County received 42 applicants from throughout the country for the position of County Manager and met with applicants for a series of interviews and discussions. "We had an outstanding group of qualified applicants. Mick Berry brings experience and vision to this position. We believe he will continue to provide the kind of outstanding staff leadership Catawba County has been fortunate to experience, and will need to meet future challenges and opportunities."

The finalists spent considerable time in Catawba County being interviewed by the Board, discussing their experience and philosophies, and providing written commentary on how they would deal with issues the County is experiencing. Finalists also participated in a tour of the County. Candidates were subject to reference checks, background investigations of their academic credentials, and driving, criminal and credit histories by an independent investigator.

Berry said, "I am humbled and honored to be selected by the Commissioners after a very thorough and competitive process. Catawba County has been our family's home for 26 years. I can't think of a better place to raise a family and I'm excited to continue to serve the community as County Manager. I look forward to working with the County Commissioners to implement their vision for the County. County staff members are well known in their fields as award winning, exceptional professionals and I'm confident we will continue to enhance and improve the quality of life for our citizens."

Berry holds a Bachelors of Arts in Economics and Masters of Public Administration degree from Brigham Young University, is an International City/County Managers Association (ICMA) Credentialed Manager and a member of the North Carolina City and County Management Association (NCCCMA). He has also is a graduate of the Senior Executive Institute, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia and serves as a member of several community organizations in Catawba County.

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